Pollution check in fertilizer plants

1342. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pollution check has been made in respect of all the fertiliser plants in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken to check pollution in the fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Monitoring of pollution control norms in fertilizer factories and any action to be taken thereon is the responsibility of the State Pollution Control Boards. However, Government have been collecting data on effluent emission from major nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizer units from time to time.

At present, 14 units, out of 37 major fertilizer units in operation, do not meet the prescribed pollution standards. Out of these 14 units, 6 units belong to Fertilizer Corporation of India and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation which are sick companies and are not able to install the pollution control facilities due to funds constraints. These companies have been referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Any action with regard to the revival of these companies or new investments on pollution control measures would depend on the final out come of the proceedings pending before BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. Other 8 units have indicated the time frame within which they would be able to conform to the prescribed pollution control standards.

Claims of Bhopal Gas Victims

1343. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Bhopal Gas Victims lying pending in various Courts for hearing;

(b) the number of claims disposed of so far;

(c) the amout of compensation given; and

(d) the action/measures taken by Government to dispose of the remaining claim expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to)c) As on 14.7.94, the position was as follows:—

(i) Cases pending 3,59,603

(ii) Claims disposed of 77,386

(iii) Amount given as compensation—Rs. 237.79 crores.

(d) The following Action measures were taken by the Government of India to dispose of the remaining claims expeditiously:—

(i) The Welfare Commissioner has been permitted to recruit advocates of 7 years standing who whould perform the functions of Deputy Commissioners.

(ii) A High Level Coordination Committee headed by Justice N. M. Kasliwal, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court has been set up with the objective to suggest ways and means for expeditious disposal of the cases.